

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 EPA-04 DOTE-00 FEA-01

AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

INR-07 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 /155 W

----- 108958

R 051213Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6838

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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DEPT PLS PASS TO EPA F. GREEN AND E. STORK

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, EIND, UNEP, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNEP INDUSTRY PROGRAM: REPORT ON MOTOR

VEHICLE SEMINAR, PARIS, OCTOBER 4-6, 1976

REF: STATE 230334

1. THE UNEP INDUSTRY PROGRAMM'S MOTOR VEHICLE SEMINAR WAS HELD AS SCHEDULED DURING OCTOBER 4-6, 1976, AT UNESCO HEADQUARTERS IN PARIS. THIS SEMINAR WAS ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY 250 PARTICIPANTS AND OBSERVERS, WHICH INCLUDED SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM MOST OF THE LARGE AUTO-MOBILE MANUFACTURERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES OF INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS ACTIVE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES OF THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, THE PARTICIPANTS REQUESTED, AND THE CHAIRMAN, MR. DE ROSEN, AGREED, THAT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD REVISE THE DRAFT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS AND MAIL THESE TO THE SENIOR PARTICIPANTS FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTOMOTIVE

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COMPANIES FROM EACH COUNTRY. RESPONSES WOULD BE WEL-

COMED BY THE SECRETARIAT UP TO SIX WEEKS AFTER THE DATE OF MAILING.

2. MR. DE ROSEN ADVISED EMBOFF THAT THE DRAFT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS, REVISED WITH THE AID OF TAPE RECORDINGS OF THE SESSIONS, THE FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, AND A REVISED INTERIM REPORT WERE MAILED TO THE SENIOR PARTICIPANTS ON OCTOBER 28. FOR THE UNITED STATES THESE ADDRESSEES WOULD INCLUDE: ERIC STORK, EPA, AND THE SENIOR ATTENDEES OF FORD, GM, CHRYSLER, AND WILLIAM EBERLE, PRESIDENT OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF THE US. DE ROSEN EXPECTS RESPONSES ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 9, 1976. HE THEN PLANS TO CONSOLIDATE THOSE COMMENTS AND TO PRESENT HIS REPORT OF THE SEMINAR.

3. THE SEMINAR WAS VERY WELL ATTENDED BY SENIOR OFFICIALS OF AUTOMOBILE COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY. THE FACILITIES FOR THE MEETING WERE ADEQUATE TO THE NEEDS OF THE GROUP. THE THREE DAYS WERE DEVOTED TO A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS REPORT MADE AVAILABLE TO THE SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS PRIOR TO THE SEMINAR. SEVERAL TOPICS IN THE DRAFT REPORT WERE NOT ADEQUATELY DISCUSSED; AND IN MANY INSTANCES THE CHAIRMAN WAS TOTALLY UNABLE TO DEVELOP ANY CONSENSUS ON HOW TO PHRASE OR HOW TO REPORT THE SPECTRUM OF VIEWS PRESENTED. THE STRONG DETERMINATION OF THE CHAIRMAN TO PROCEED WITH A REVIEW AND REWRITING OF THE FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS WAS NOT WELL APPRECIATED BY MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND LED TO THE LATTER PORTIONS OF THE SEMINAR TAKING ON THE AIR OF AN ADVERSARY DEBATE BETWEEN THE CHAIR AND THE PARTICIPANTS.

4. COMMENT: FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE USG, THIS SEMINAR WAS NOT HELPFUL IN FORGING AN APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR UNEP IN INDUSTRY/ENVIRONMENT ISSUES, ADVANCING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF USG OBJECTIVES FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, OR ADVANCING US FOREIGN COMMERCE INTERESTS IN THAT INDUSTRY. MOST NECESSARY INGREDIENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SEMINAR WERE PRESENT: SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ADEQUATE PREPARATION TIME AND ADEQUATE FACILITIES. HOWEVER, THE TOPICS COVERED IN THE THREE DAYS WERE TOO MANY IN NUMBER AND THOSE OF ANY SUBSTANCE WERE CONTROVERSIAL AND LACKED USEFUL

FOCUS. THE CHAIRMAN'S APPROACH WAS NOT PARTICULARLY  
CONSTRUCTIVE IN BRINGING TOGETHER OPPOSING VIEWS ON THE  
SUBJECTS IN DISPUTE; RATHER, HE MADE IT VERY OBVIOUS  
THAT HIS OBJECTIVE WAS TO DEVELOP A PAPER CONTAINING  
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM UNEP AND SETTING UP FUTURE ACTIVI-  
TIES FOR UNEP'S INDUSTRY PROGRAM IN THIS AREA. MOST  
PARTICIPANTS KNEW EACH OTHER AND UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER'S

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NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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VIEWS ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES, AND MOST WONDERED  
WHY UNEP WAS TO BE YET ANOTHER ACTOR IN THIS THORNY  
AREA. MOST APPEARED GENUINELY INTERESTED IN MAKING  
PROGRESS IN SOLVING THE PROBLEMS AND NOT INTERESTED  
IN HAVING ANOTHER FORUM TO RESPOND TO ON THESE MATTERS.  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISCUSSIONS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS  
APPEARED TO BE PRESENTED FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF  
ENSURING THAT THE UNEP REPORT MADE NO WAVES IN THE  
INTERNATIONAL OR NATIONAL SCENES RELATING TO THESE

PROBLEMS AND THUS WOULD NOT PROVE HARMFUL IN THE FUTURE.

5. TO ILLUSTRATE THE TENSION PRESENT TOWARDS THE END OF THE SEMINAR BETWEEN THE CHAIRMAN AND THE PARTICIPANTS: THE PARTICIPANTS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CHAIRMAN WAS HOLDING A PRESS CONFERENCE THE DAY AFTER THE SEMINAR CONCLUDED AND ASKED THAT HE REFRAIN FROM SUCH A SESSION AS THERE HAD BEEN NO CLEAR CONCLUSIONS DRAWN DURING THE MEETING. THE CHAIRMAN INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT MAKE UNCLASSIFIED

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A FORMAL STATEMENT ON THE RESULTS OF THIS SEMINAR BUT WOULD ANSWER INQUIRIES FROM THE PRESS ON WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED DURING THE SEMINAR. HE AGREED NOT TO HAVE ANY SESSION WITH THE PRESS AFTER THE PARTICIPANTS PERSISTED IN REQUESTING HIM TO CANCEL HIS SESSION THREATENING TO PROVIDE THE PRESS ON THEIR OWN VIEWS OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED DURING THE SEMINAR.

6. IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING WERE OFFICIALS ACTIVE IN THE OIL INDUSTRY AND CONCERNED ABOUT RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. THEIR PARTICULAR INTEREST IN ATTENDING THE MOTOR VEHICLE SEMINAR WAS TO LEARN OF THE OPERATING MATTERS OF THE CHAIRMAN SO THAT THEY COULD BE BETTER PREPARED TO COPE WITH THEIR FOUR-DAY SESSION, WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN APRIL 1977. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE WERE AMONG THOSE ATTENDING, AND THEY EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN REGARDING THE USEFULNESS OF A UNEP SESSION ON THE OIL INDUSTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD DISCUSS THE PROPOSED SESSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AT AN EARLY DATE AND WOULD WELCOME THE DEPARTMENT'S EFFECTIVE COORDINATION OF US PARTICIPATION IN THE OIL INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT SEMINAR.

7. THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT UNEP CAN DO TO MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE MANY PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN CORRECTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIES. HOWEVER, MOUNTING SUCH A ONE-MAN SHOW FOR THE PURPOSE OF BANGING TOGETHER THE HEADS OF INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WOULD APPEAR TO BENEFIT NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE INDUSTRY NOR UNEP. THE DECEMBER 16-18 MEETING IN PARIS OF THE REVIEW OF THE UNEP INDUSTRY PROGRAM PROVIDES THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A CRITICAL REVIEW OF THIS PROGRAM AND TO ASSESS ITS GOOD AND BAD POINTS AND TO REDRESS THE DIRECTION OF THE PROGRAMS, HOPEFULLY TO AVERT A REPEAT OF THE PROBLEMS DEVELOPED IN THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY SESSION DURING THE SPRING 1977 SESSION ON THE OIL INDUSTRY.

8. COMMENTS ON THE REVISED DRAFT FINDINGS AND CONCLU-  
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SIONS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE SEMINAR ARE EXPECTED TO BE  
RETURNED BY EACH ADDRESSEE TO THE SECRETARIAT ON OR  
BEFORE DECEMBER 9, 1976. IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE MOST  
PRACTICAL FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW IF COMMENTS BY US  
PARTICIPANTS COULD BE COORDINATED PRIOR TO THEIR SUB-  
MISSION TO THE UNEP INDUSTRY PROGRAM SECRETARIAT SO  
THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE A DILUTION BY THE SECRETARIAT  
OF US VIEWS. PERHAPS THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE COOPERA-  
TION OF EPA COULD MEET WITH THE SENIOR COMPANY OFFICIALS  
WHO ATTENDED THE SEMINAR TO DEVELOP A UNIFIED RESPONSE  
TO THE SECRETARIAT. THE EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO ASSIST  
IN ENSURING THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAS A FULL AND CON-  
TINUING UNDERSTANDING OF THE US COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT  
DURING ITS REDRAFTING EXERCISE.  
RUSH

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